Dear Paul (JL, HR), 7/23/74

When I saw a GSA envelope in today's mail when Lil brought it in less than an hour before Jim is due here, I laid aside some rather complicated writing about a complicated material, the so-called "Baker report," to read it. After a hasty single reading I write you in haste to complete it before Jim comes because we have more to do than we'll have time for.

Rhoads refers to making a copy available to a single requestor only. I take it this means you and I hope this means you alone. More on this below.

My reading of this leads me to believe that it fortifies my possibilities in a civil suit for money damages that Jim and I have talked about. We will ~~maxi~~ not be able to discuss it today. There are admission that strengthen this claim and an admission of administrative failure not covered by the phoney explanation. No time for all the arguments and details. I'll be including a copy. Jim and I will welcome your comments.

I do not know whether it is a good idea and obviously I have not been able to think this through, but I raise this question so you can thing about whether you would want to file such a suit or join in one I may file, if Jim considers it a good idea. I know he tends to favor a backstop action, as I generally do. But you'll have time to think.

There is a response to this I will not now write and won't until Jim has a chance to read and advise, so if you see questions I should ask, please suggest them. Like who advised of national security requirment continuing so close to declassification when his sworn answers to interrogatories shows nobody read the transcript who could have made the recommendation and the only admitted readings were so far in the past any opinion based on it has to be some kind of nonfeasance.

It took him a month to answer this one so I imagine the next will take longer.

I am getting to the end of the rough draft of a "different" Watergate book and am anxious to complete it. Lil is typing away at the text of what I've written to go with the transcript. Maybe half done. Jim is to have his draft completed and a copy to leave with me when he is here soon, after which he will retype it in final form. As soon as Lil has completed her typing I'll get to the appendix so I can complete it as I go, including pagination, the only close to efficient way. This gives you a status report and an idea of how soon I'll need anything you may still supply of the requests I've made. When I get to the appendix I'm going to complete it as I go and the burden of work here is such that I simply will not be able to take time to make additions or unnecessary changes. It should be a complete job for many reasons.

If Lifton will be patient this can be a big help to him. However, from what I know of him I dare not trust him with what I can see for him. He can take my word or not as he sees fit but it is in an area where when the time comes that I can tell him I will and I will have neither misgivings nor a reluctance to help him. However, this is not to say that I want you to communicate any of the rest of this letter to him in any way for I do not. He is sick and he is unscrupulous and I won't do anything that can in any way jeopardize this work and its possible significance. Jim's opinion and mine are unchanged on that.

At this point he came. He skimmed this letter and took a copy. We could not discuss because we did not have enough time to go over his legal analysis together. I have finished reading and suggesting and will get it xeroxed in Frederick tomorrow and return to him for retyping. He hopes, if the mail is not delayed, to have it completed by the time I have to go to DC Tuesday. Lil says she'll soon be finished her typing. Jim picked up the Javits letter, thanks.

Think there was something else but I'm too tired. Best,